

## REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of June 24, 2009 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 20, 23, 28, 30 and 32 have been examined in this RCE application and have all been rejected (three rejections) under 35 USC 103(a) over Divjak.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 28, 30 and 32 have been amended and new claims 33 - 42 added. The amendments and new claims are fully supported by the disclosure of the application. The following basis is referenced to the numbered paragraphs of the published application: claim 28 is based on paragraph [0012] ; claim 30 and 32 are based on paragraph [0010] and [0041] - [0043]; new claim 33 is based on paragraph [0010], [0041] - [0043]; new claim 34 on paragraph [0045]; new claim 35 on paragraph [0015], [0046]; new claim 36 is based on paragraphs [0016] and [0049]; new claim 37 on paragraph [0010]; and the features of new claims 38 to 40 are essentially the same as those of amended claim 30.

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As previously noted, Divjak does not disclose selection lines that act both on the multiplexer and on the measurement modules. The line connecting port 2 of the microprocessor is connected with a gain control input 42 that is used to control the resolution of a conditioning circuit 12-1 to test for an externally sourced input/output type device 19-1 (fig. 2, col. 6, l. 17-20 and col. 7, l. 41-45). Obviously, this connection is not used for selecting the input/output device 19-1. Thus, line 42 is not a "selection line". The lines connecting port 1 and port 0 of the

multiplexer with the entrance 34 and 35 of the multiplexer channel select inputs which are used for channel selection of the multiplexer (cf. col. 3, l. 56-69 and col. 4, l. 9-11). These selection lines are used to control the multiplexer. However, they do not act at the same time on measurement modules, but on the multiplexer only.

According to new claim 33, "all measurement modules are connected to the central unit by the central transmission line for transferring a data signal over the central transmission line from the central unit to all measurement modules, wherein only the measurement module selected by the central unit by the selection line assigned to it utilizes the data signal transmitted from the central unit over the central transmission line". On page 3, lines 1-2 of the Office Action, the connection through ref. 27-29, ref. 14 and ref. 45 is regarded as a "central transmission line". However, this connection is used for transferring data from the modules 19-1 to the microprocessor, not from the microprocessor to the modules (cf. col. 4, l. 4-11). It is, therefore, not a central transmission line.

With respect to method claim 30, the examiner no longer regards the connection through ref. 27-29, ref. 14 and ref. 45 as a "central transmission line". Instead, now the connection to ref. 42 and 34-35 is regarded as "central transmission line". However, gain control input 42 is used to provide a large dynamic range for measurement of the sensed voltage and/or current in the conditioning circuit 12-1. It is not a central transmission line for transferring a data signal from the central unit (the microprocessor) to the measurement modules. The lines connecting the microprocessor with the inputs 34 and 35 of the multiplexer are used to select a channel of the multiplexer. They are certainly no central transmission lines for transferring data from the central unit to the measurement modules.

Furthermore, these selection lines (34, 35) are simply used to select the respective channel of the multiplexer over which data from the module is transmitted to the microprocessor. They do not act on the respective modules so as to select one or several modules that utilize the data signal transmitted from the central unit over the central transmission line, whereas those modules not selected do not utilize the data signal. Consequently, claims 33 to 37 can not, it is respectfully submitted be rendered unpatentable by Divjak .

In addition, the examiner still fails to show, where in Divjak it is described to select different measuring modules for different selection times and in particular to change the selection times. No disclosure in the Divjak can be found with respect to choosing different selection times or changing selection times. Furthermore, Divjak does not disclose utilizing data sent from the central unit only in the measurement module selected by means of the associated selection line, as pointed out before. Consequently the amended and new method claims can not, it is respectfully submitted be rendered obvious by Divjak.

The examiner is urged to consider the above and the additional art being cited in a further IDS and find claims 20, 23, 28, 30 and 32 - 42 allowed.

Please charge the added claim fee of \$210 to Dep. Acc. No. 02-0200. If any further fee is required, please charge it to the noted Dep. Acc.

U.S. Pat. Appl. 10/510,072

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Respectfully submitted,  
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix D. D'Ambrosio', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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